

HCS SCS SB 563 -- HIGHER EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Dixon (Leach)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 12 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding higher education.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

Currently, the University of Missouri Board of Curators can award an individual grant for a research project on Alzheimer's disease and related disorders for up to \$30,000 per year. The substitute raises the maximum annual grant amount to \$50,000.

EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES

The substitute corrects the name of the organization referred to in the provisions regarding the Compact for Education in Section 173.300, RSMo, from the Educational Commission of the States to the Education Commission of the States.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS INITIATIVE

The Missouri Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Initiative is established within the Department of Higher Education to increase interest and the number of graduates in these fields. The substitute creates the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Fund for appropriated moneys to match institutional funds for endowed teaching professorships, scholarships, youth programs, and career enhancement programs for elementary and secondary teachers and professors at public and private colleges and universities regarding these fields of study.

UNIVERSITY GOVERNING BOARDS

The terms of six of the nine members of the Missouri State University Board of Governors expired in 2011. Current law requires that no more than three terms expire in any given year but does not provide for the staggered term lengths necessary to accomplish this. The substitute revises the term lengths for the appointments to fill the six expired terms so that the term of no more than three board members will expire in any given year. The term of three members will expire on January 1, 2013, three on January 1, 2015, and three on January 1, 2017. The substitute also specifies that not more than two voting members of the Northwest Missouri State University Board of Regents may be residents of the same county.

MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY CONVEYANCE TO THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD

The substitute authorizes the Board of Governors of Missouri State University to convey a street right-of-way at National Avenue and Monroe Street and a street right-of-way, drainage easement, and sanitary sewer easement at National Avenue and Grand Street to the City of Springfield.

The provisions of the substitute regarding university governing boards contain an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund of an income of \$0 or a cost of Unknown in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015. Estimated Net Income on Other State Funds of \$0 or Unknown in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will resolve a conflict between the requirement for six-year terms for the Missouri State University board and the omission of staggered terms necessary to accomplish the requirement to have three terms ending in odd-numbered years.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Dixon; and Missouri State University.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.